

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USOECD

PASS JUSTICE AND FTC

E.O. 11652: N/A
GS: EINC, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE OF
EXPERTS ON RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES (RBP)

1. MISSION OFFICERS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS
WITH RESPONSIBLE OECD OFFICIALS SHORTCOMINGS IN
SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR RBP COMMITTEE WHICH WERE
NOTED BY U.S. DELEGATIONS TO DECEMBER AND APRIL
RBP MEETINGS. SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WITH WHOM MATTER
DISCUSSED WERE JAMES GILMER, WHO IS DIRECTLY RESPON-
SIBLE FOR RBP WORK, AND GILMER'S SUPERIORS, RAYMOND
BERTRAND AND JOHN HACKETT, WHO ARE, RESPECTIVELY,
DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OECD'S FINANCIAL AND
FISCAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE.

2. WE SPECIFICALLY RAISES ISSUES OF IMPROVING RBP
COMMITTEE PROCEDURES (SHORTENING OR OMITTING ORAL
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PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS AND PROGRESS
REPORTS BY WORKING PARTIES), FOSTERING BETTER RELA-
TIONS WITH BIAC AND ADEQUACY OF SECRETARIAT'S
RESOURCES FOR RBP WORK PROGRAM. (ON LATTER WE NOTED
-- WITHOUT MAKING OR IMPLYING ANY COMMITMENTS OF
OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES -- SOME U.S. PARTICIPANTS IN RBP WORK

HAD INFORMALLY ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO STRENGTHEN SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE WITH A NEW POSITION, PERHAPS AT THE A-4 LEVEL, PREFERABLY FILLED WITH PERSON VERSED IN U.S. ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM.) GENERALLY, WE POINTED OUT THAT WITH PROSPECTIVE NEW CHAIRMAN TAKING OVER RBP COMMITTEE THIS WAS PROPITIOUS TIME TO TAKE FRESH LOOK AT PROCEDURES AND STAFFING.

3. BERTRAND AND HACKETT WERE NON-COMMITTAL, BUT NOTED DIFFICULTY OF ADDING STAFF WITHOUT STRONG SUPPORT FROM SEVERAL NATIONAL DELEGATIONS. THEY AND GILMER STATED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SHENEFIELD AT NEXT OR ANOTHER EARLY RBP MEETING WERE TO GIVE A STATEMENT ON U.S. CONCEPT OF WORK PROGRAM AND OBJECTIVES OF RBP COMMITTEE. GILMER, WHILE SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES AND SUPPORT AND SAID HE WOULD THINK THEM OVER. HE INDICATED THAT HE ALSO HOPED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS FURTHER WITH ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SHENEFIELD DURING NEXT RBP MEETING IN JUNE.
SALZMAN

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